

# WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

*The latest news summarized by LIVIA BENKO*



# AIEES

AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE FOR  
EUROPEAN AND SECURITY POLICY

## COVID IN NUMBERS

## World

**CONFIRMED INFECTED**

**401.638.227**

**RECOVERED**

**321.372.352**

**DEATHS**

**5.784.458**

# EUROPE

Europe has reported 138,011,000 Covid-19 cases and 2,013,000 deaths so far. The emergence of the Covid variant Omicron is still escalating in Europe as of 2022. Vaccinations, milder Omicron strain and the arrival of spring should keep death rates low, as cases rise to all time high. Europe could soon enter a “long period of tranquillity” that amounts to an “endgame” in the pandemic thanks to the less severe Omicron variant, high levels of immunity and the arrival of warmer spring weather. The 53-country region, which includes the UK has recorded 12 million new coronavirus cases in the past week, the highest single weekly total of the pandemic, with about 22% of all tests returning a positive result. Europe is however slowly opening up and lifting restrictions, as hospital admissions, although growing, were not rising at the same rate and the number of patients in intensive care was not increasing significantly.



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# ITALY

Italy's government has decided to ease several anti-Covid restrictions, including school measures. Among the changes announced was the end of distance learning for primary and secondary students regardless of the number of tested positive in their class. In kindergardens, classes will now switch to distance learning only when five or more students test positive compared to one previously. Beyond education, "the duration of the vaccination pass for those who had three doses or two doses for those who have recovered will become unlimited.

Previously the country's vaccination pass had only been valid for six months.

Travellers from countries with different vaccination rules than Italy will also now be able to use a simple health pass under which a negative test is sufficient to access places such as hotels and restaurants where a vaccination pass was previously required.

## COVID IN NUMBERS

## Italy

**CONFIRMED INFECTED**

**11.765.767**

**RECOVERED**

**9.688.455**

**DEATHS**

**149.512**

**IN SERIOUS CONDITION**

**1.376**

# CZECH REPUBLIC

The country is seeing a record spike in coronavirus cases as the Omicron variant spreads. But hospitalisations have not yet peaked and are well below than in previous waves of the pandemic. The government plans to end some measures. From Feb. 9, the need to show proof of vaccination or being recently recovered from COVID-19 to enter restaurants and other hospitality or service venues will end. The government will also finish mandatory testing in firms and schools starting from Feb. 18. Measures requiring mask wearing indoors and limits to the number of people at public events will remain in place.

## COVID IN NUMBERS

## Czech republic

**CONFIRMED INFECTED**

**3.311.152**

**RECOVERED**

**2.968.509**

**DEATHS**

**37.612**

**IN SERIOUS CONDITION**

**214**

# FRANCE

French authorities began lifting a series of Covid restrictions this month, with nightclubs to reopen from February 16 and standing areas once again authorised for concerts and sporting events as well as bars.

The country recorded 46,001 Covid cases recently, a sharp drop from the record of just under 465,000 infections in mid-January. Under current rules, anyone travelling to France from outside the EU, including Britain, has to show a negative Covid test result from the previous 48 hours, regardless of vaccination status. France has revealed plans to drop its requirement for vaccinated travellers from Britain and America to show proof of a negative Covid test on arrival.

## COVID IN NUMBERS

## France

**CONFIRMED INFECTED**

**21.039.639**

**RECOVERED**

**15.042.541**

**DEATHS**

**133.614**

**IN SERIOUS CONDITION**

**3.622**